

Vision 21 Implementation Committee
Minutes
March 15, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Austin Bliss, Donna Brescia, Kirk Hazlett, Delores Keefe, Meg O'Brien, Jennifer Page, Ann Rittenburg, Paul Solomon

Members absent: Sara Oaklander, Paul Santos, Jay Szklut, Vinnie DeNovellis

1. **Administrivia**

a. Kirk Hazlett served as recorder in place of Austin Bliss who had another appointment requiring that he leave early. The minutes of the February 15, 2007, meeting were approved as amended to reflect the correct dates of Town Meeting: April 23, 25 and 30(if needed). One abstention was recorded as Paul Solomon was not present at the February 15 meeting.

2. **BAR**

a. Following a brief overview by Donna Brescia on a proposal by BAR that the Vision Implementation Committee co-sponsor an event with BAR:

b. (Solomon) Move that the Vision Implementation Committee co-sponsor an event with BAR. (Second-Bliss) Unanimous approval.

c. As background, Brescia said that she has been invited to speak at the event and that the VIC has not been asked to do anything else at this point as co-sponsor other than lend its vote of approval to be co-sponsor.

d. Brescia informed the Committee that the demographics of Belmont are 95% Caucasian, 3% Asian, and 2% Hispanic/African-American, etc. One of the reasons cited by the families in the combined 5% categories that they don't move *away* from Belmont is that they do not wish to be the "first" to do so.

e. Austin Bliss offered some 'ideas' of why other minority families don't move to Belmont including:

i. Cost of services / higher taxes

ii. Religious beliefs (no places of worship in Belmont)

iii. Food (ethnic varieties)

iv. Suspicion of discrimination

v. Fear/discomfort

vi. "not possible to afford"

vii. Don't know about Belmont

f. Meg O'Brien observed that population changes tend to follow geographic migration patterns, with ethnic populations following certain established routes of moving.

g. Brescia raised the question of what the VIC could ask schools to do as part of the "welcome to Belmont" activities.

- h. Bliss suggested that we need to find some way for people to know about/ get to “Meet Belmont.”
- i. Paul Solomon suggested the *Belmont Citizen-Herald*, when notified by Town Clerk Delores Keefe, send a copy of the newspaper to every new family as a way of introducing them to Belmont. Or perhaps send extra copies to Town Hall for distribution to new families.
- j. Brescia ended the brainstorming session by asking Committee members to send any other ideas to her via email.

3. **Portable Display and Photo Contest Updates**

- a. Bliss next gave the Committee an update on the portable displays that he and his subcommittee have been working on. Upon seeing his rough layout of a display, the Committee agreed that it is a good concept that merits further refinement.
- b. Kirk Hazlett provided an update on the “Capture the Vision” Photo Contest saying that his subcommittee needs some assistance in identifying sponsors/prize donors.

4. **Sustainable Belmont**

- a. Paul Solomon advised the Committee that the Board of Selectmen have unanimously passed the “Sustainable Building Design Policy” presented by the Sustainable Belmont committee. “Kudos to those who worked on the [policy]” (Solomon)

5. **New Business**

- a. Brescia asked if anyone had information on what is being planned for Belmont’s 150th Anniversary. Keefe replied that there will be fireworks, but no parade planned as yet. Belmont flags and pins will be on sale, as well as a Belmont chair. Tickets for the kickoff event are \$50.
- b. The next meeting of the Belmont Vision 21 Implementation Committee was set for
Thursday, April 19.

6. **Adjourn**

The March 15, 2007, meeting of the Committee was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Hazlett
Secretary Pro Tempore